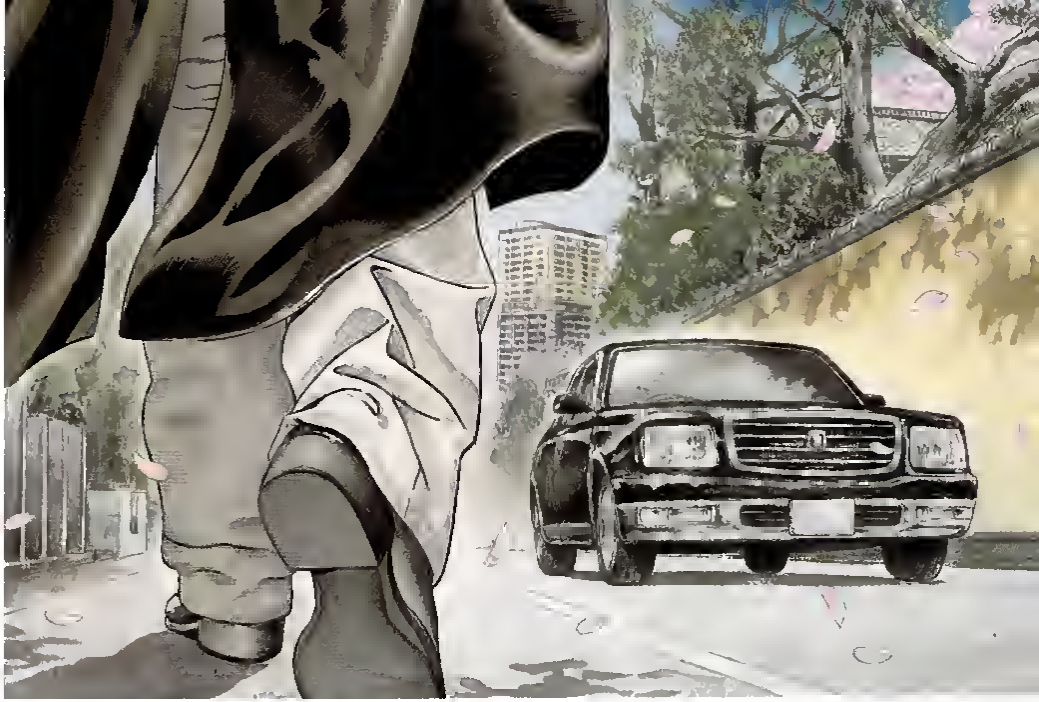
COVER DESIGN：OSAMU TAKEUCHI

"A man who keeps on living thoroughly forever without a purpose but only to live, is objectively a comical, yet subjectively boring person."

—Schopenhauer.

SOURCE: *ON SUICIDE, SUPPLEMENT TO THE FOURTH BOOK*, SCHOPENHAUER. TRANSLATED BY SHINJI SAITO (IWANAMI BOOKS)

Thanatos no Shisha
タナトスの使者
1
原作・吉田 穣
JO YOSHIDA
漫画・赤名 修
SHU AKANA
FILE.1
Ryuichi Yasuda 1
1



SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN, HUH?

I JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY.

JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY?
BUT YOU COME HERE EVERY MONTH, DON'T YOU?
JAB
HOW ABOUT WE CHAT FOR A FEW?
Slam.

I'LL PASS ON THAT.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO BURN ANY INCENSE FOR THEM?
OFFERINGS TO THE DEAD ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A COMPLACENCY FOR THE LIVING.

THIS IS ALL?
PAFF
WHAT MORE DID YOU EXPECT?
ISN'T OUR JOB ENOUGH AS IT IS?
I SUPPOSE SO.
.....

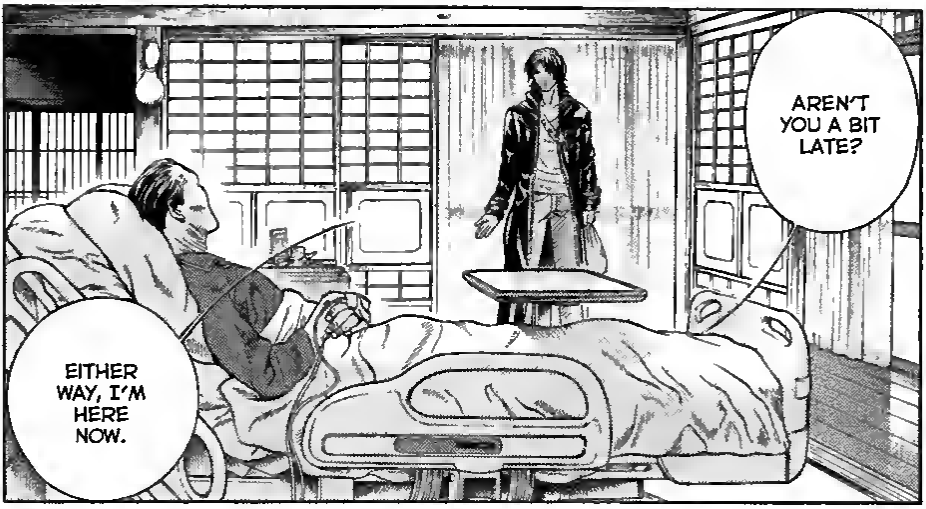
JUST START AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
"Lung cancer". Male.
Ryuichi Yasuda
Tokyo
XX-XX-XX
XXX town
...A JOB, HUH?

3:15
20.6
Internal Medicine
……

...I GUESS SUCH A TEMPTING OFFER COULD NEVER ACTUALLY EXIST.
WOOSH
!

EXCUSE ME FOR BEING LATE.

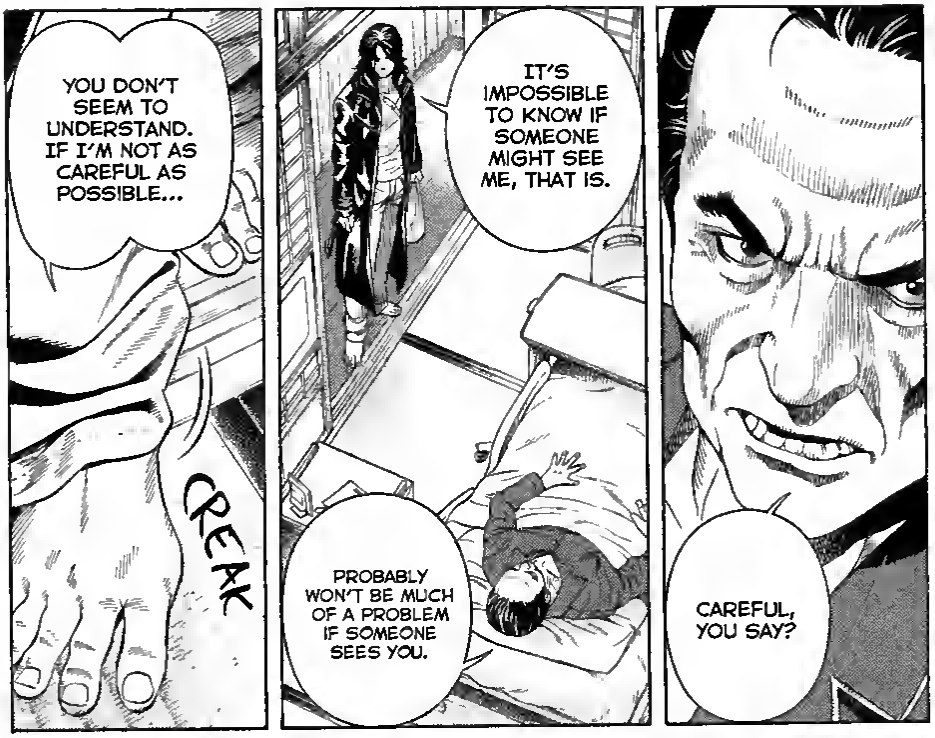
SLIDE
I'M FROM THE JAPANESE SOCIETY OF THANATOLOGY.
I AM AGENT KURUSHIMA.

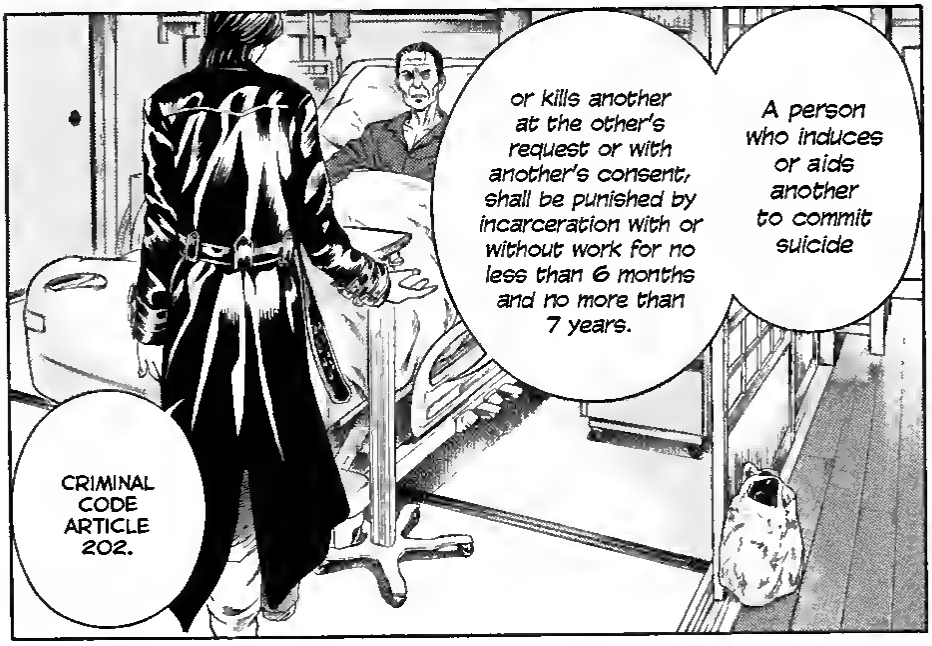

AREN'T YOU A BIT LATE?
EITHER WAY, I'M HERE NOW.

JUST FOR A BIT, I WANT YOU TO SEE EVERYTHING I'M DOING HERE.

YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL WITH THIS KIND OF THING.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
Pass

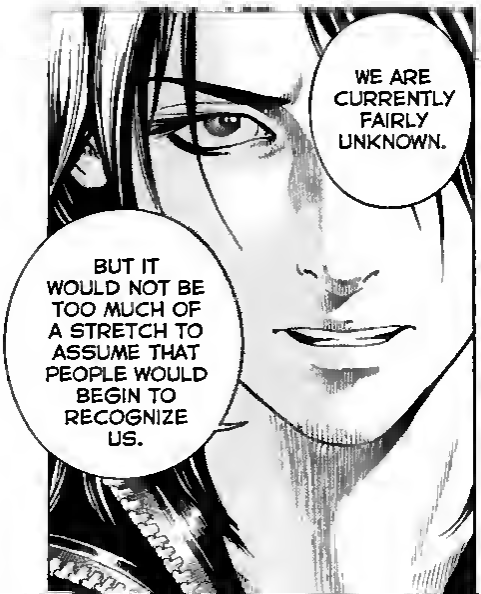

YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND. IF I'M NOT AS CAREFUL AS POSSIBLE...
CREAK
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW IF SOMEONE MIGHT SEE ME, THAT IS.
PROBABLY WON'T BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM IF SOMEONE SEES YOU.
CAREFUL, YOU SAY?


CRIMINAL CODE ARTICLE 202.
A person who induces or aids another to commit suicide or kills another at the other's request or with another's consent, shall be punished by incarceration with or without work for no less than 6 months and no more than 7 years.

AND WHY DOES THAT MATTER?
WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE AND NOW...
...IS CLEARLY A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

I KNOW ALREADY, AND WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
INSURANCE COMPANY?

WE CANNOT FAIL BECAUSE IT MAY CAUSE SUSPICION.
I AM A DOCTOR, AS YOU'RE NO DOUBT AWARE.

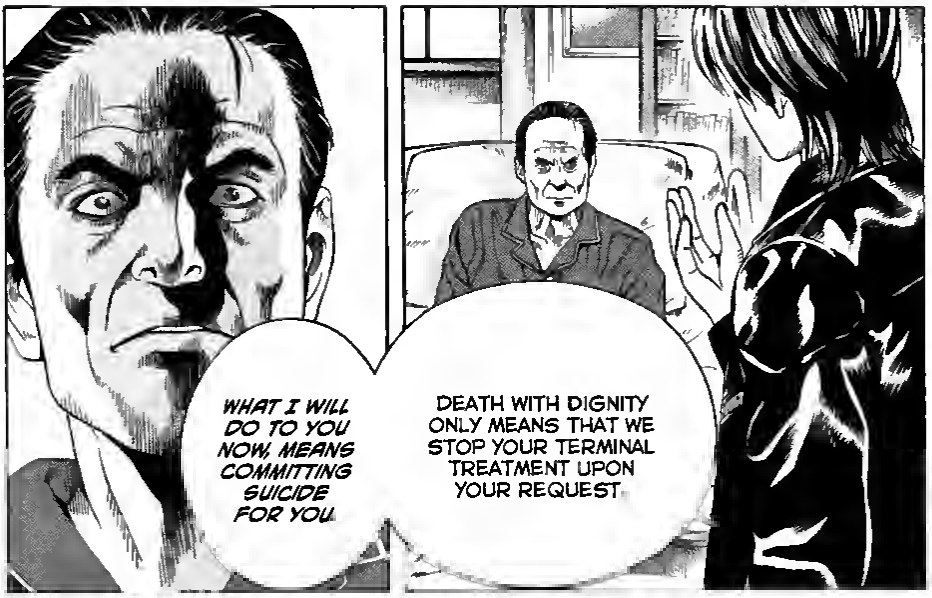

WE ARE CURRENTLY FAIRLY UNKNOWN.
BUT IT WOULD NOT BE TOO MUCH OF A STRETCH TO ASSUME THAT PEOPLE WOULD BEGIN TO RECOGNIZE US.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
I SUPPOSE, PEOPLE WOULD BEGIN TO DISLIKE OUR SOCIETY.

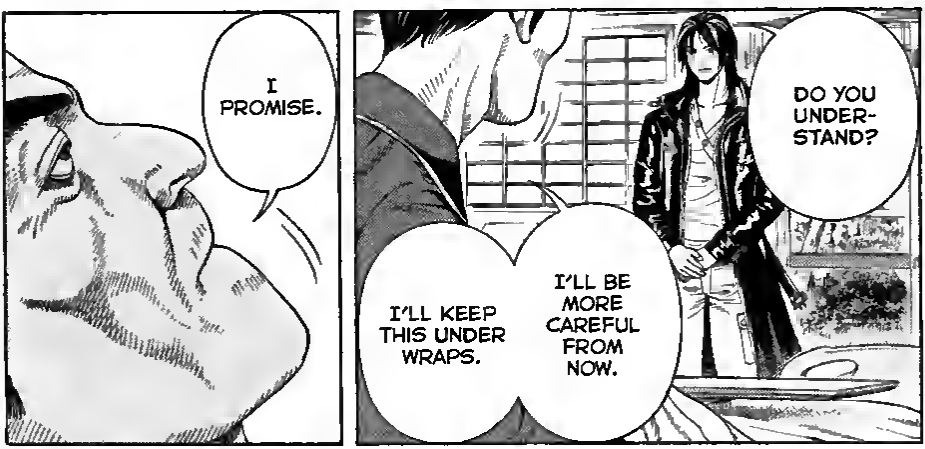
WE PRESCRIBE DEATH.
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO THINK
THAT A PERSON WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE ANOTHER'S TIME OF DEATH BY THEMSELVES HAS NO MORALS.
.....

PERHAPS YOU ALSO SEE THINGS THIS WAY.
WHAT A LOAD OF SHIT, NO WAY...
.....
YOU BASTARD!

I'M JUST KIDDING.
BUT I THINK DEATH WITH DIGNITY IS SOMETHING EVERY HUMAN DESERVES AND HAS A RIGHT TO.
I GUESS YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.
MAKING A DECOY OF SOMEONE WITH THIS KIND OF BODY WOULD BE GREATLY IMMORAL.
THAT'S OBVIOUS.


WHAT I WILL DO TO YOU NOW, MEANS COMMITTING SUICIDE FOR YOU.
DEATH WITH DIGNITY ONLY MEANS THAT WE STOP YOUR TERMINAL TREATMENT UPON YOUR REQUEST.

NO LESS, NO MORE.
AND MURDER FOR ME.

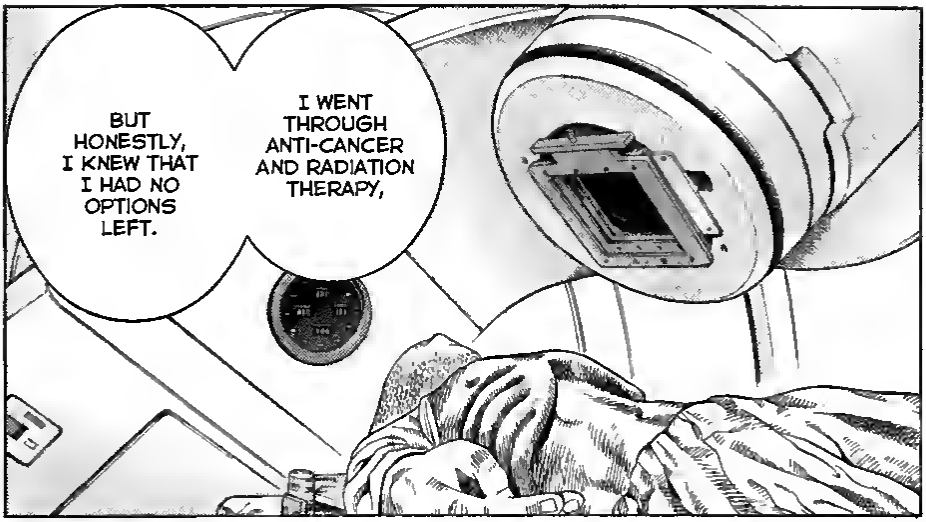

I PROMISE.
I'LL KEEP THIS UNDER WRAPS.
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

PFF
"GIGGLE, GIGGLE"
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
I DON'T FEEL LIKE MAKING A PROMISE WITH SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO DIE.
.....
BWA HA HA!
A PROMISE WITH THE DEAD.
THIS IS SO STRANGE...

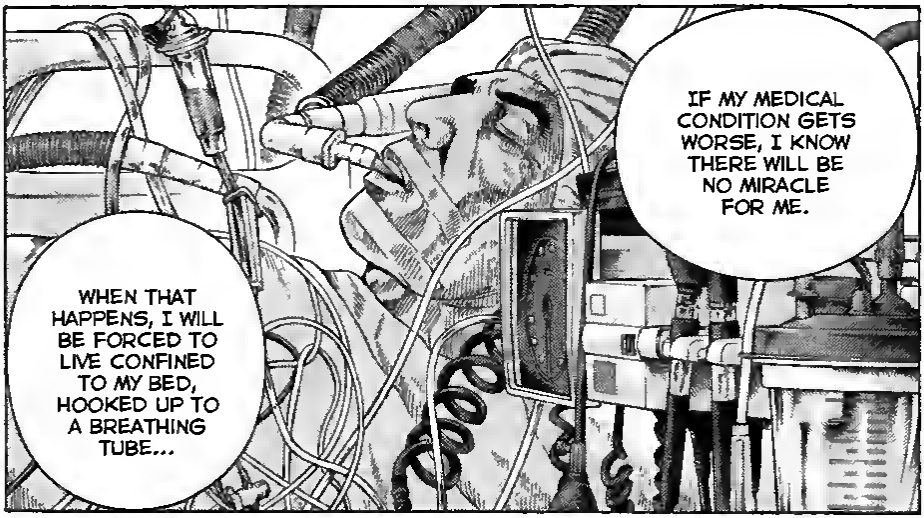
NOW, LET ME EXAMINE YOU.
SERIOUS
YOU SON OF A BITCH.

LET'S END THIS CONVER-SATION HERE.
IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH OUR METHOD
!
I'LL BE DAMNED THEN!
N-NO.
INDEED, FROM A DOCTOR'S POINT OF VIEW.
YOUR LIFE WON'T LAST LONG EVEN IF WE DON'T INTERVENE.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOK-ING TO GAIN?
WHAT WAS THE DOCTOR'S DIAGNOSIS?

THE CANCER HAS METASTASIZED TO THE LYMPH NODES AND HAS TURNED TO STAGE III-B LUNG CANCER.
TERMINAL LUNG CANCER.
I HAVE HALF A YEAR TO LIVE.
THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME... TWO YEARS AGO.
.....

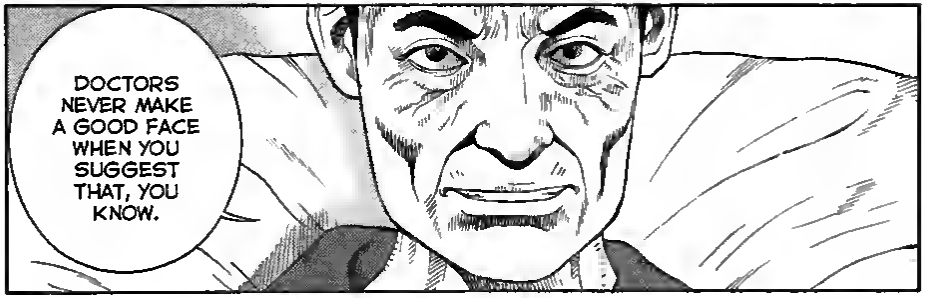

I WENT THROUGH ANTI-CANCER AND RADIATION THERAPY,
BUT HONESTLY, I KNEW THAT I HAD NO OPTIONS LEFT.

EVEN THE DOCTOR HAD NONE?
YOU KNOW, I'VE LOST MY FRIENDS ONE BY ONE AT THIS AGE.


IF MY MEDICAL CONDITION GETS WORSE, I KNOW THERE WILL BE NO MIRACLE FOR ME.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I WILL BE FORCED TO LIVE CONFINED TO MY BED, HOOKED UP TO A BREATHING TUBE...

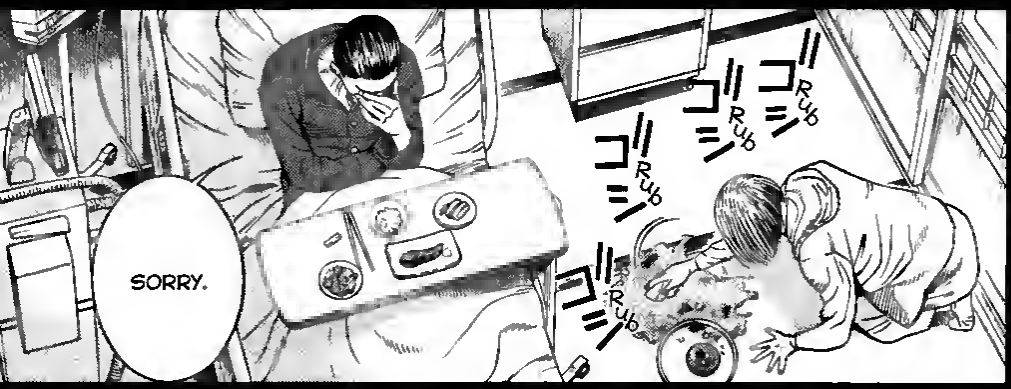
IN THE END, I'D LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS BECAUSE OF THE PAIN-KILLERS...
AND I WOULD LEAVE THIS WORLD WITHOUT EVEN BEING ABLE TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY FAMILY.
0 /m 0.00 mV
100
200
0
BEEEEP
I DESPISE HAVING TO FACE SUCH A DEATH.

...THAT'S WHY YOU CHOSE TO BE AN OUT-PATIENT, AND STAY AT HOME.


DOCTORS NEVER MAKE A GOOD FACE WHEN YOU SUGGEST THAT, YOU KNOW.

HOME REMEDY IS BOTHER-SOME.
WE GOTTA VISIT THE PATIENT'S HOUSE,
AND IT'S HARD TO JUDGE THE TIME OF DEATH IF YOUR HOUSE DOESN'T HAVE AN ECG MONITOR.

BESIDES, IT WILL BE A GREAT DETRIMENT TO YOUR FAMILY.
山展望台コース
928M
THE REASON WHY I DECIDED TO CALL YOU WAS...
AH.
Drop
ONE YEAR AFTER I WAS TOLD I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO LIVE.
Slurp

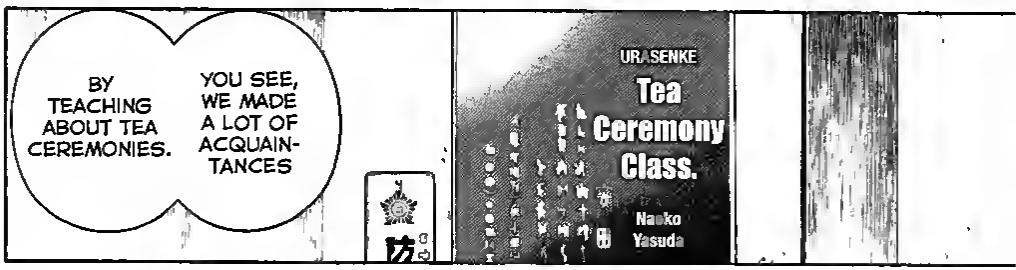

SORRY.
ゴシ Rub
ゴシ Rub
ゴシ Rub
ゴシ Rub

...NAOKO
コミ Rub
コミ Rub
コミ Rub
コミ Rub
コミ Rub
.....

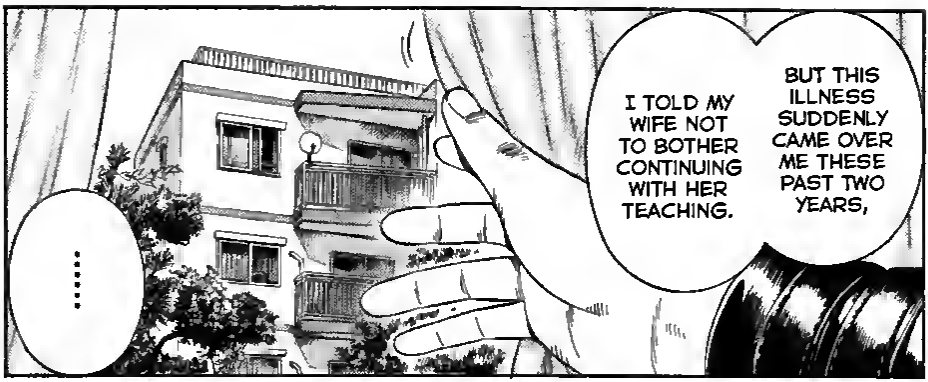
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BRING YOU ANOTHER ONE.
"I WANT TO DIE."

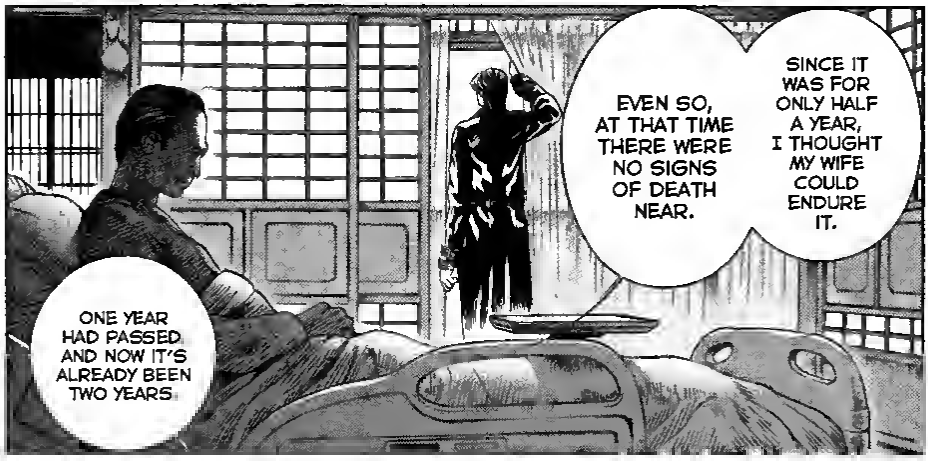
YES.
BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN.
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE MY WIFE SUFFER ANY MORE THAN THIS.
.....
YOUR WIFE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO NURSES YOU?
HOW ABOUT OTHER RELATIVES?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY EITHER.
BOTH MY WIFE AND I ARE ONLY CHILDREN AND WE LOST OUR PARENTS VERY EARLY.
SHE'S BEEN THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS SINCE SHE WAS YOUNG BECAUSE SHE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF HER PARENTS
AND NOW SHE'S TAKING CARE OF ME...
RECENTLY, SHE HASN'T GONE ANYWHERE EXCEPT TO GET THE MEDICINE FROM THE HOSPITAL.

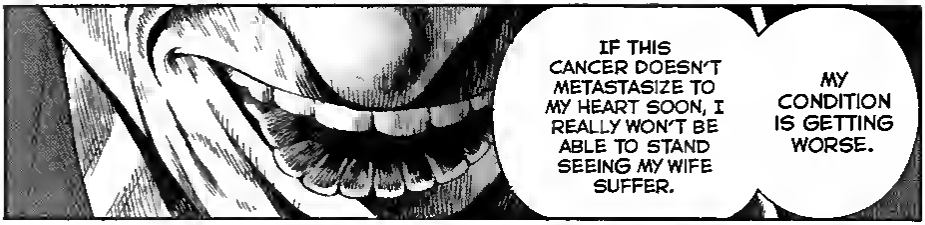
BEFORE I BECAME LIKE THIS, SHE USED TO BE AN ENERGETIC WOMAN

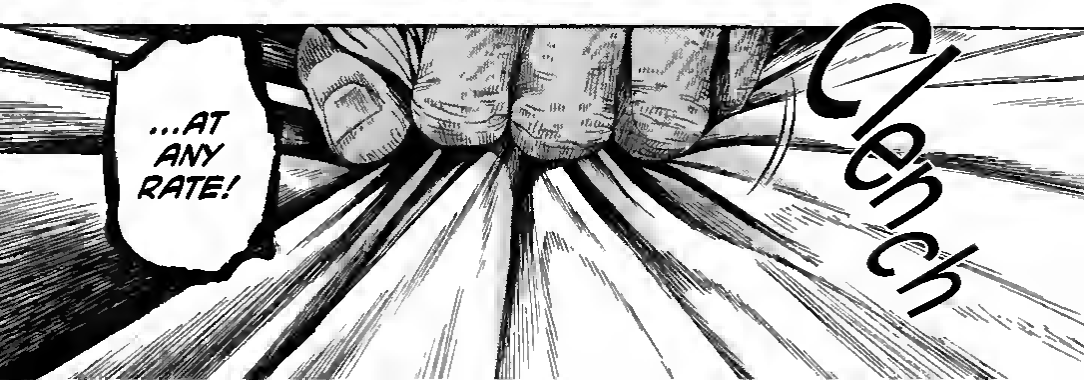

YOU SEE, WE MADE A LOT OF ACQUAIN-TANCES
BY TEACHING ABOUT TEA CEREMONIES.
URASENKE
Tea Ceremony Class.
Naoko Yasuda

TEA CEREMONIES WERE ONE OF MY WIFE'S HOBBIES.
WE HAD A LOT OF STUDENTS BACK THEN.


.....
I TOLD MY WIFE NOT TO BOTHER CONTINUING WITH HER TEACHING.
BUT THIS ILLNESS SUDDENLY CAME OVER ME THESE PAST TWO YEARS,


ONE YEAR HAD PASSED AND NOW IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO YEARS.
EVEN SO, AT THAT TIME THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF DEATH NEAR.
SINCE IT WAS FOR ONLY HALF A YEAR, I THOUGHT MY WIFE COULD ENDURE IT.


IF THIS CANCER DOESN'T METASTASIZE TO MY HEART SOON, I REALLY WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND SEEING MY WIFE SUFFER.
MY CONDITION IS GETTING WORSE.


...AT ANY RATE!
Clench

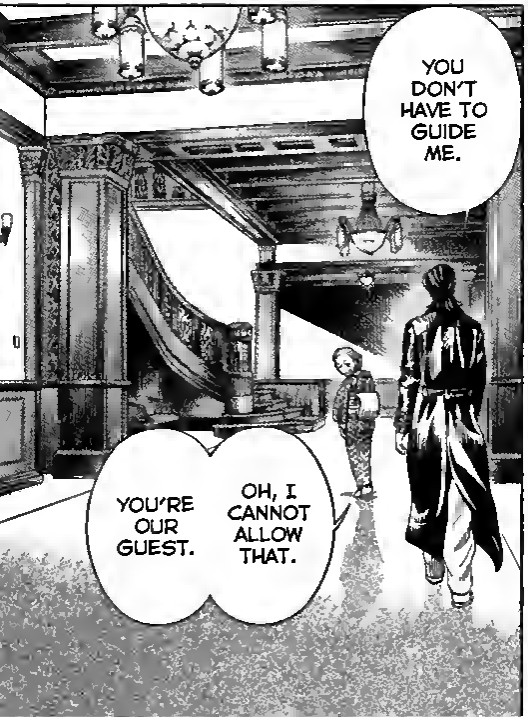
I DON'T WANT TO ALLOW MY WIFE TO TIE HERSELF TO ME ANY LONGER.
I WANT HER TO LIVE HER LIFE.
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP

SO. NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A BIT DRAMATIC.
WELL... THAT WAS VERY TOUCHING.
CLAP
CLAP

...I SUPPOSE YOU'VE FINISHED WITH YOUR EXAMINATION, THEN.
.....
YES.
I WOULDN'T MIND KILLING YOU SOON.

WHEN WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO DIE?
RIGHT NOW?
GULP
LET'S JUST CALL IT A DAY FOR NOW.
WELL, DON'T SWEAT IT.
?

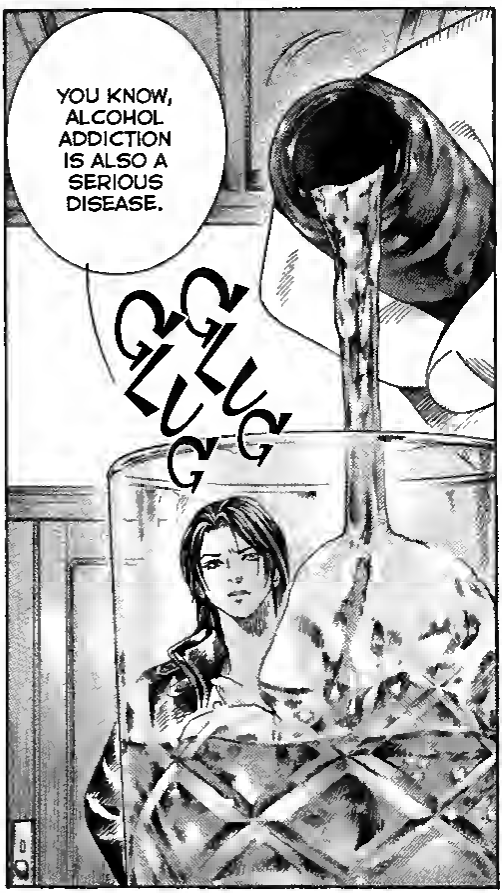
SLIDE
WOOSH
I SHALL RETURN.
UNTIL THEN, I'M ASKING FOR YOUR COOPERATION.


YOU DON'T HAVE TO GUIDE ME.
OH, I CANNOT ALLOW THAT.
YOU'RE OUR GUEST.

WHERE'S THE PRESI-DENT?
HE'S IN HIS USUAL ROOM.

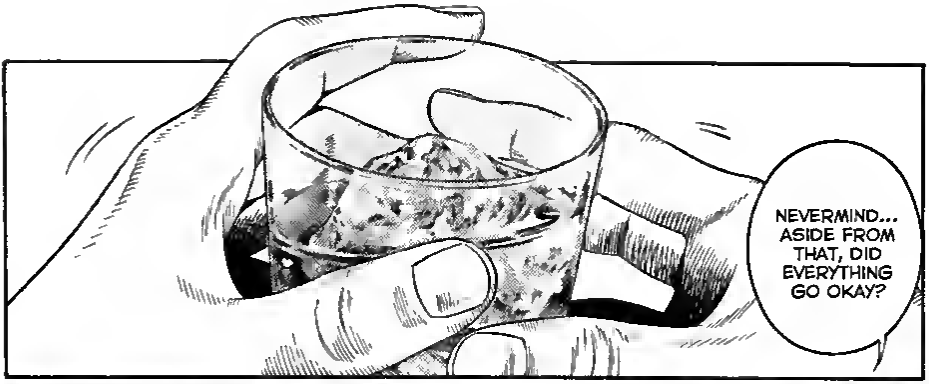
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT?

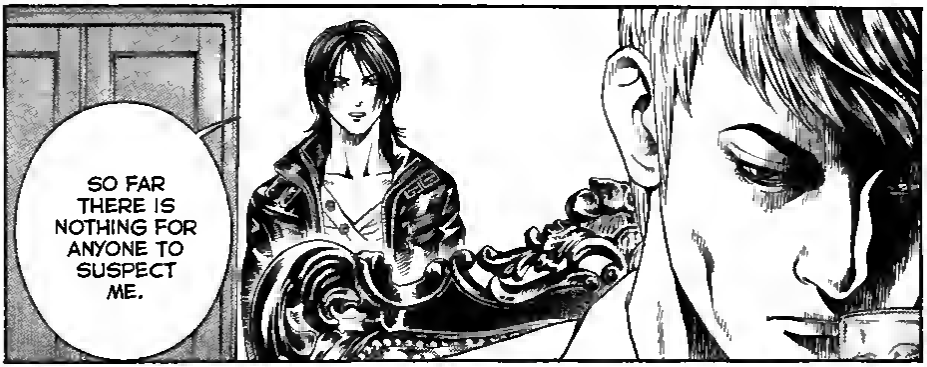
MR. YASUDA, THE REQUESTER, WAS ALSO ASKING THE SAME THING.
YOU'RE SO IMPATIENT.


YOU KNOW, ALCOHOL ADDICTION IS ALSO A SERIOUS DISEASE.
GLUG GLUG GLUG

GULP
HMPH.
DON'T LUMP ME TOGETHER WITH A MAN WHO WANTS TO DIE.

IT IS PART OF A GENTLEMEN'S ETIQUETTE.
GLUK
VIEUX
RHUM AGRICOLE
DILLON
HORS D'AGE
X.O.
MARTINIQUE
Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée
A LA RHUMERIE DILLON
FORT DE FRANCE
№ 026500
IT JUST APPEARS AS THOUGH I'M ADDICTED TO IT.

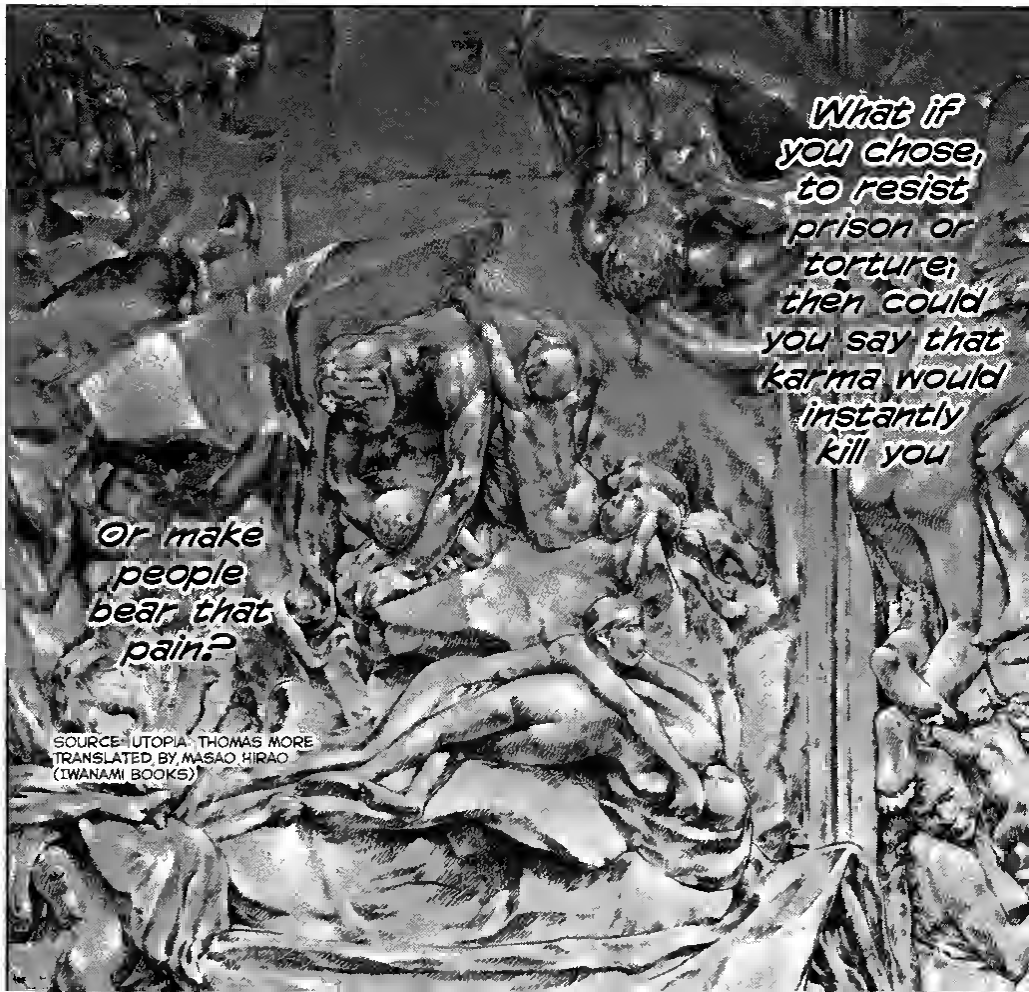

NEVERMIND... ASIDE FROM THAT, DID EVERYTHING GO OKAY?


SO FAR THERE IS NOTHING FOR ANYONE TO SUSPECT ME.

THERE'S BEEN SOME SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY LATELY.
BE CAREFUL...

WEREN'T YOU IN HIGH SPIRITS JUST A MOMENT AGO?
BEING CAUTIOUS, EH?

DON'T FORGET.
WE'RE "THE ONES WHO PERSUADE GOD'S WILL."


What if you chose, to resist prison or torture; then could you say that karma would instantly kill you
Or make people bear that pain?
SOURCE: UTOPIA THOMAS MORE TRANSLATED BY MASAO HIRAO (IWANAMI BOOKS)

"UTOPIA."
RIGHT.
"HIS" WILL OF DEATH IS OUR GOOD CAUSE.

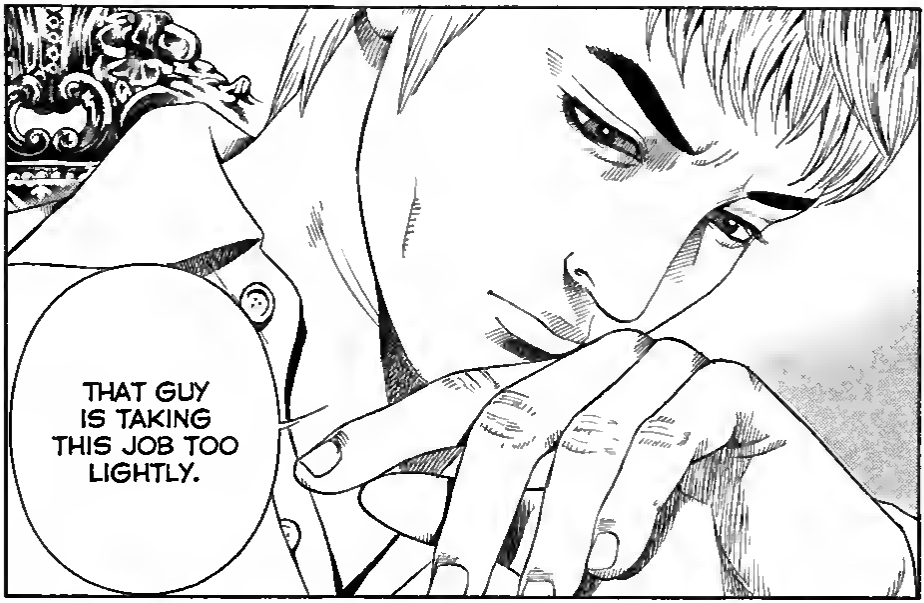
DON'T WASTE "HIS" DEATH.

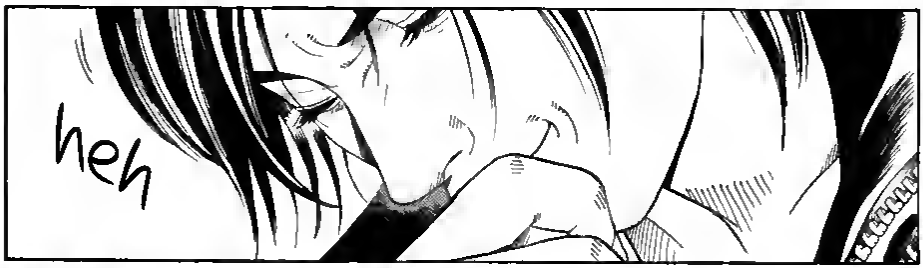
.....

BUT THAT'S WHY OUR SAYING IS "THE REASON DOESN'T MATTER."
SO SILLY.
DID IT HAVE TO DO WITH HIS ILLNESS?
DID HE GIVE YOU ANY OTHER REASONS?
THAT WAS A PART OF IT.
A WIFE AND NO ENCUM-BRANCES.
HOW ABOUT THE TROUBLE AFTER-WARDS?
TO JUST DO IT NOW.
THEN IT'D BE FASTER, WOULDN'T IT?
I CAN'T DO THAT.

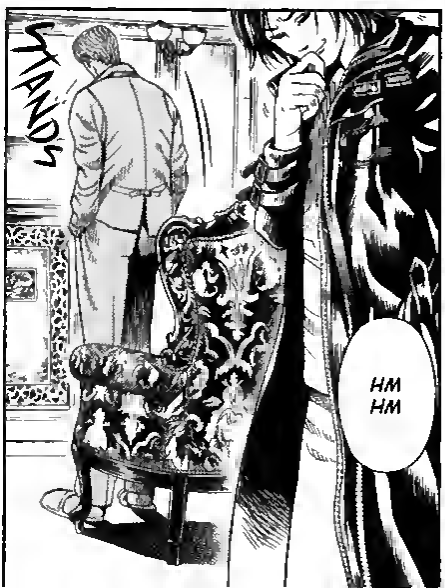
IS THIS BECAUSE YOU NEED TO GET THE FACTS?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I CAN ONLY ASK THAT OF THE REQUESTER HIMSELF.
I CAN SEE YOU ARE ENJOYING THIS JOB.
I AM NOT JOKING.
YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M TAKING A RISK HERE, TOO.

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU NEED?
NOT MUCH.
OR, THAT'S WHAT I ASSUME, FOR NOW.
WELL, I DON'T MIND YOU DOING AS YOU LIKE.
BUT DON'T BE TOO CAREFREE.
I NEED A PLACE NEAR THE REQUEST-ER'S HOUSE TO OBSERVE HIM.
ARE YOU GOING TO USE THAT GUY?
SQUEEZE
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?


THAT GUY IS TAKING THIS JOB TOO LIGHTLY.


heh

WHY DON'T WE HAVE A SHORT DRINK?


STANDS
HM HM

?
TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF "HIS" DEATH, ISN'T IT?

IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO DRINK WITH YOU. DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
OFFERINGS TO THE DEAD ARE NO MORE THAN A COMPLACENCY FOR THE LIVING.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT A HABIT TO MOURN THE DEAD.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY A HOBBY OF MINE.
I'LL PASS.

WELL, THAT WAS QUICK!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M GONNA COOK YOU DINNER.

ta-dah

SURRR
SURRR
SURRR

YOU HAVE A GOOD THING GOING HERE.

HOW IS IT?
Clang
Clang
Clang
Clang

NIN
NIN
NIN
SO,
WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?
CHOMP

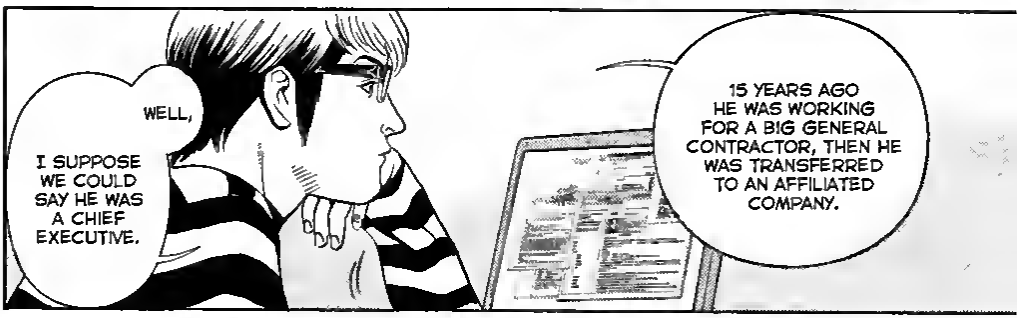
"Lung cancer. Male
Ryuichi Yasuda
XX-XX-XX, XXX town, XX
Tokyo XXX-XXX
I NEED YOU TO INVESTIGATE THIS MAN.

DEPENDS ON WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS.

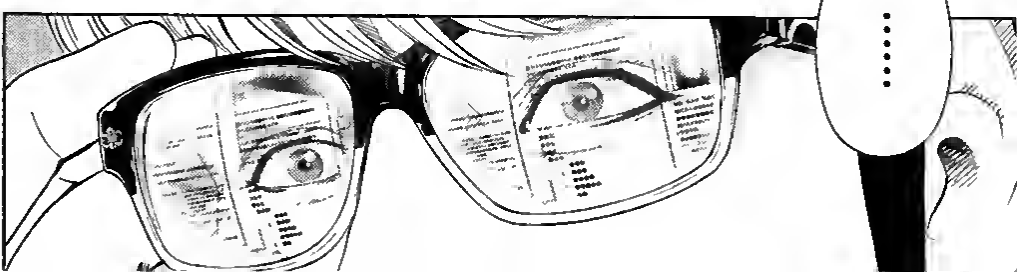
.....
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE?

A RETIRED WORKER.
LOOKING AT HIS HOUSE, I'D GUESS HE WAS AN EXECUTIVE IN A GIANT CORPORATE COMPANY.
THAT SHOULD BE EASY, THEN.
I'M GONNA UNCOVER SOME BASIC INFO ON HIM, WHILE YOU MAKE ME A CUP OF COFFEE.

I CAN'T FIND HIS NAME IN ANY CREDIT COLLECTION AGENCIES.
IT SEEMS HE'S NOT IN DEBT.
.....


15 YEARS AGO HE WAS WORKING FOR A BIG GENERAL CONTRACTOR, THEN HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO AN AFFILIATED COMPANY.
WELL, I SUPPOSE WE COULD SAY HE WAS A CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK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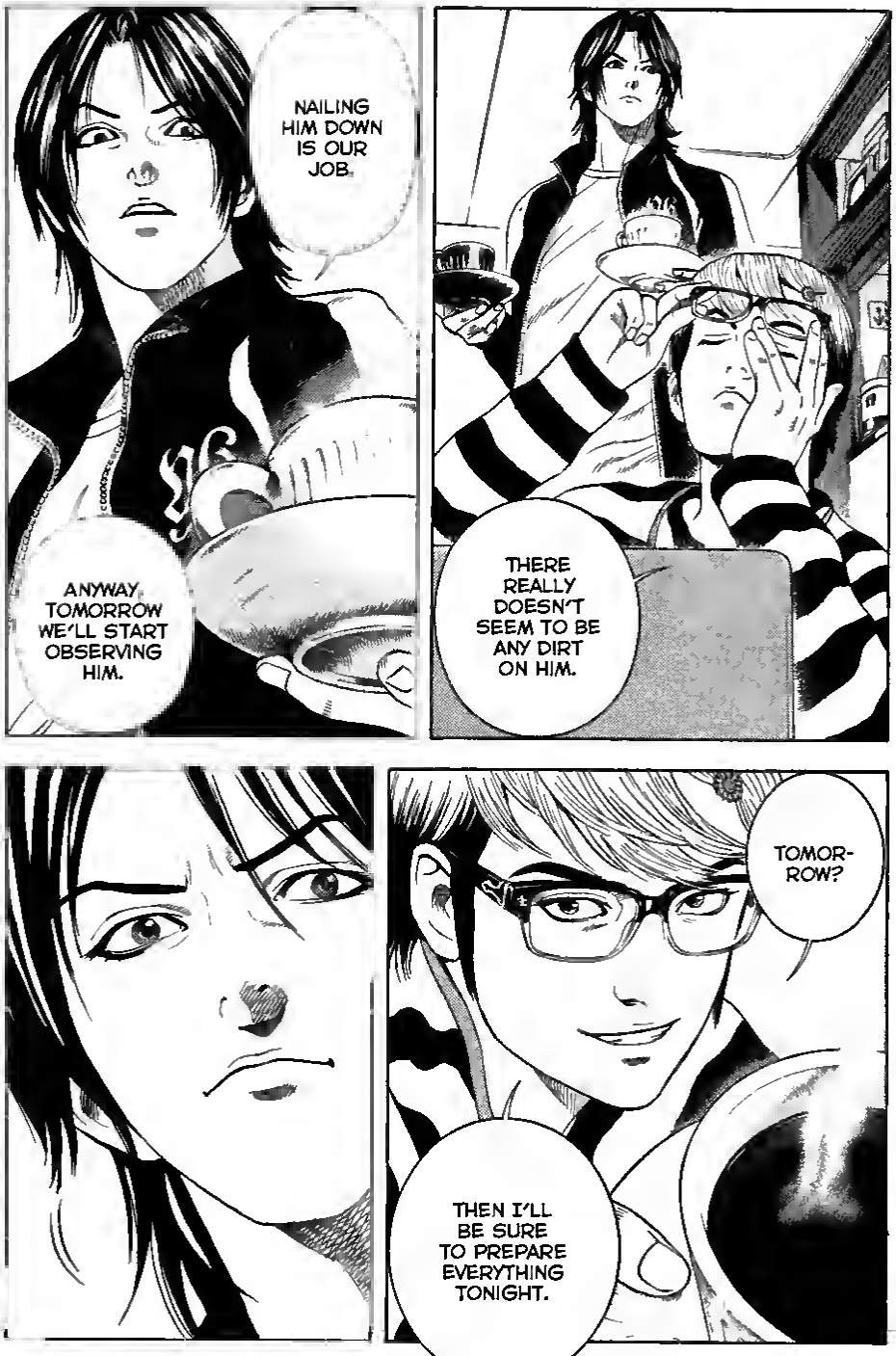
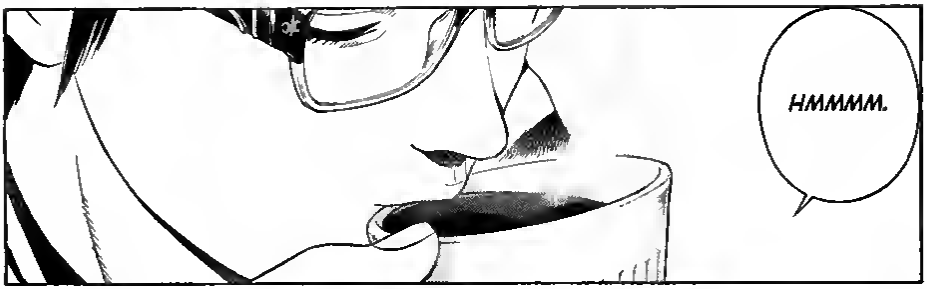
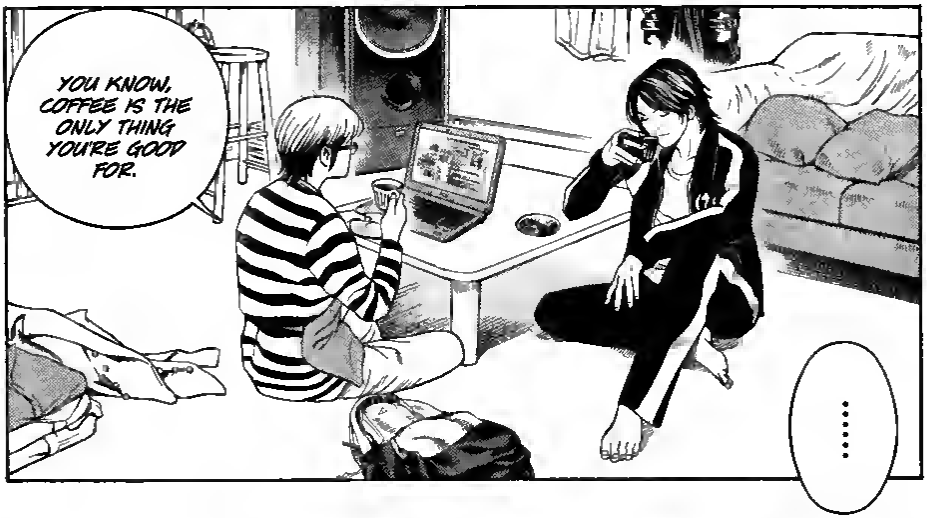
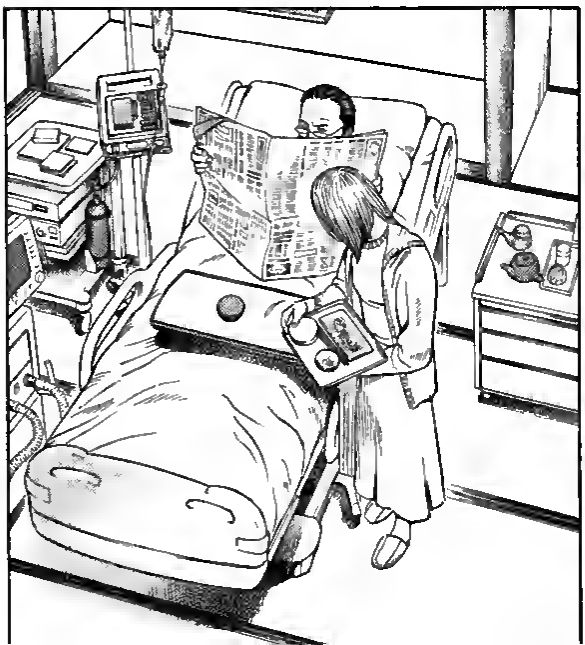
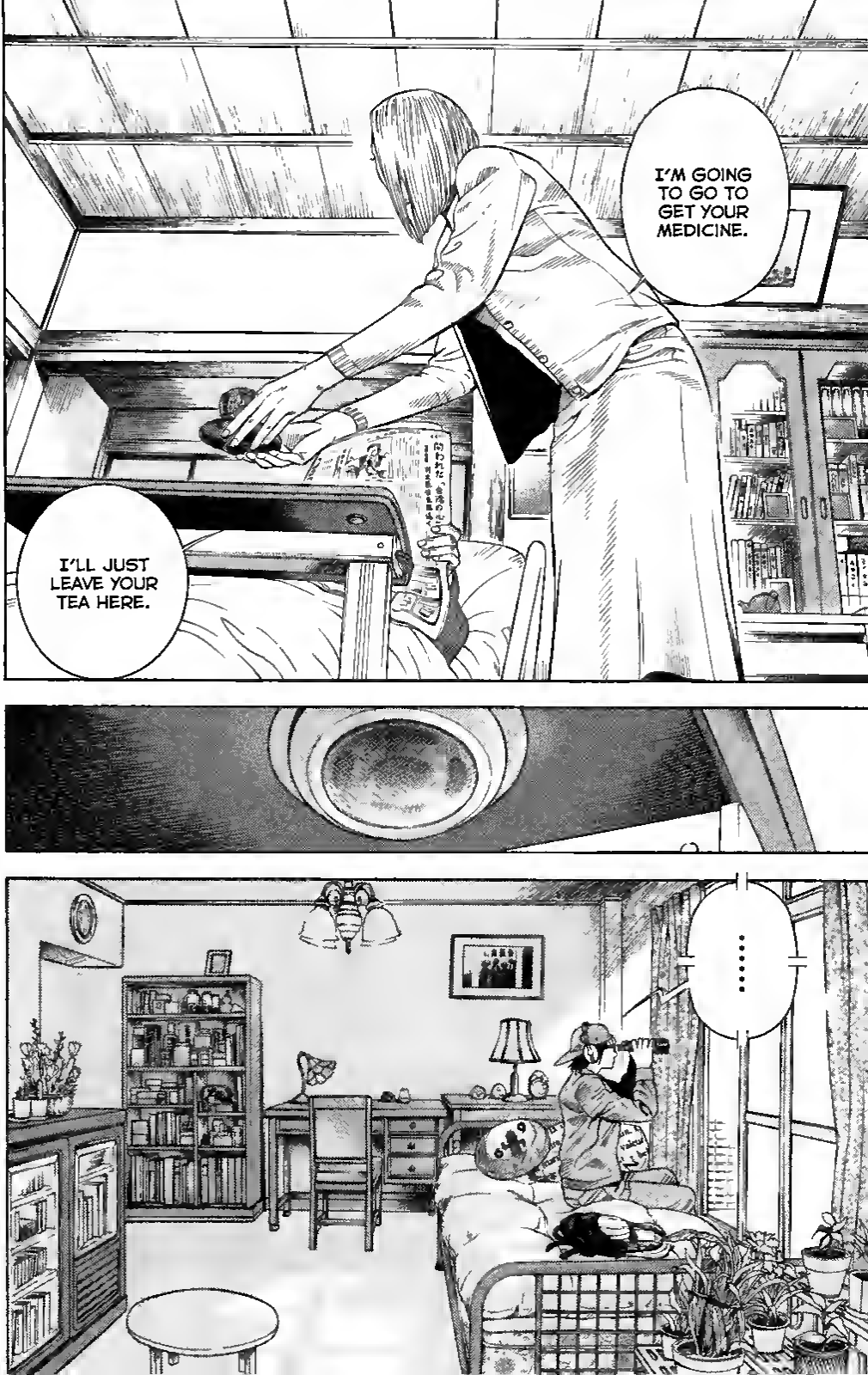

NAILING HIM DOWN IS OUR JOB.
ANYWAY, TOMORROW WE'LL START OBSERVING HIM.
THERE REALLY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY DIRT ON HIM.
TOMOR-ROW?
THEN I'LL BE SURE TO PREPARE EVERYTHING TONIGHT.

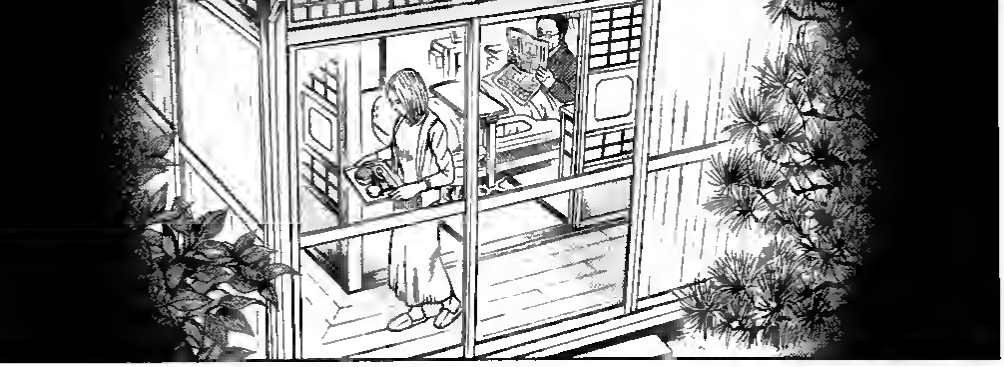

HMMMM.


YOU KNOW, COFFEE IS THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GOOD FOR.
.....



HOW DOES IT TASTE?
RUSTLE
台湾の心」
I CAN'T TELL. I'M SICK, YOU KNOW.
I SUPPOSE.


I'M GOING TO GO TO GET YOUR MEDICINE.
I'LL JUST LEAVE YOUR TEA HERE.
……



SLAM!

HOW'S IT LOOK?

HUH?
WHOA! A FULL PACK-AGE.

.....
ANYWAY, WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS YOUR BOSS?
THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY MOVEMENT.
HE'S JUST HAD LUNCH, AND NOW HE'S SLEEPING.
I WAS WONDERING, SINCE HE'S ABLE TO PREPARE A LOCATION LIKE THIS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

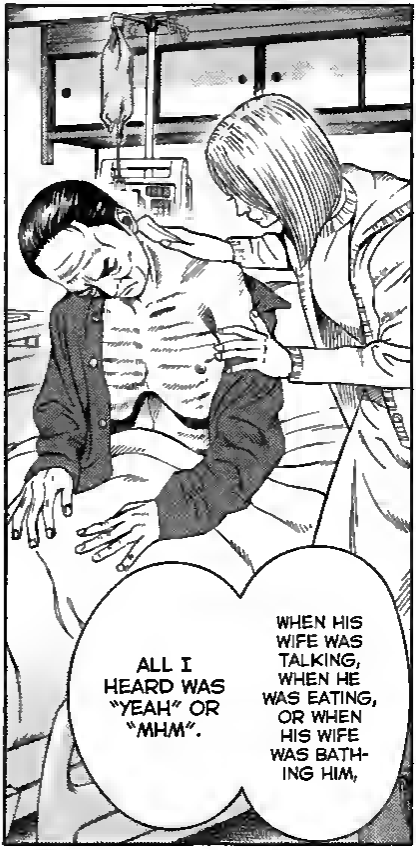
THIS ROOM BELONGS TO SOME-ONE.
ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT,

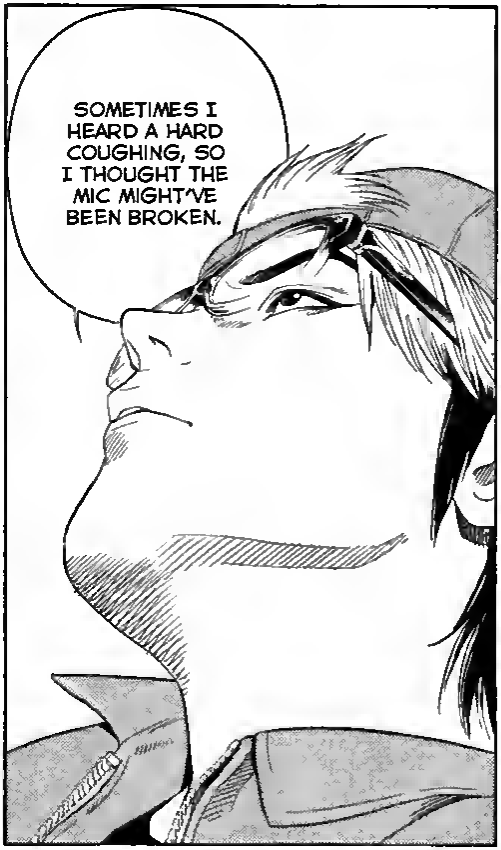
THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.
HE LIVES THE RICH, FAST LIFE.

WHAT'S THAT?

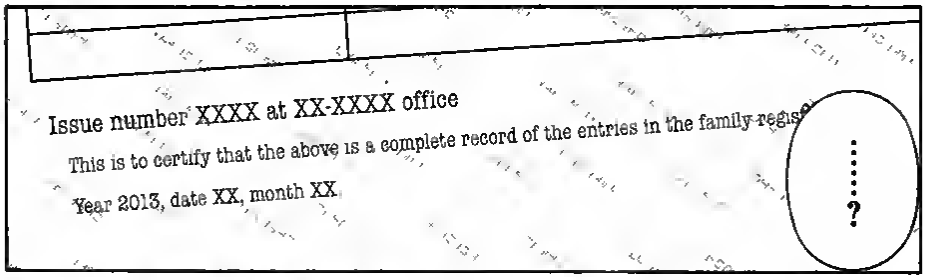
SAY, KURU-SHIMA.
DO YOUR PARENTS GET ALONG WELL?

WELL, I WAS WONDERING IF A NORMAL COUPLE REALLY DOESN'T CONVERSE, LIKE THE TWO OF THEM.
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE REQUEST-ER?


WHEN HIS WIFE WAS TALKING, WHEN HE WAS EATING, OR WHEN HIS WIFE WAS BATH-ING HIM,
ALL I HEARD WAS "YEAH" OR "MHM".

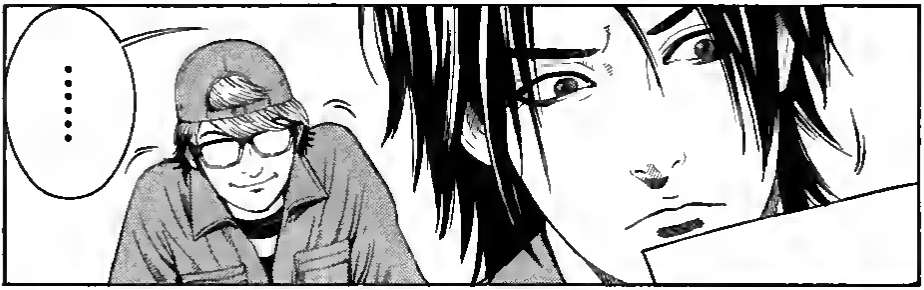

SOMETIMES I HEARD A HARD COUGHING, SO I THOUGHT THE MIC MIGHT'VE BEEN BROKEN.

I PRINTED IT OUT FOR YOU.
THIS IS HIS FAMILY REGISTER.
AH.
RIGHT.


Issue number XXXX at XX-XXXX office
This is to certify that the above is a complete record of the entries in the family regis
Year 2013, date XX, month XX
……?

THERE'S NO EMBLEM FROM THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN HERE.

HIS CHILDHOOD HOME IS LOCATED IN GIFU. IT'D BE DIFFICULT TO GO THERE SO I JUST HACKED IT FROM JUKI NET* AND PRINTED IT HERE.
T/N: *JuKi net is a network system containing national registry of Japanese citizens.


.....

!

ALRIGHT, SHOULD I GO BACK TO THE SILENT WORLD?

る者

[Name] Takayuki

[Date of Birth] XX-XX-XX
[Name of Father] Yasuda Ryuichi
[Name of Mother] Yasuda Naoko
[Relationship to Above] First son

Personal Data

Deceased.

[Date of death]
[Place of death]
[Day reported]
[Notifier]

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Thanatos no Shisha

タナトスの使者 1

By: Yoshida Jou & Akana Shuu

Chapter 1

Elmerent
Void
Golden Roze